

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 DRC-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11 OMB-01

SAM-01 /152 W

----- 065130

P R 070800Z JUN 74

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0073

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0041

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET DELOFF JUNE 5, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE US DEPREP HAD A CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR SMIRNOVSKY DURING SOCIAL OCCASION JUNE 5. DISCUSSION WAS OF INTEREST MAINLY AS SHOWING RANGE OF SOVIET INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

2. SMIRNOVSKY ASKED WHETHER US DEPREP SAW ANY POSSIBILITY OF WESTERN AGREEMENT TO SYMBOLIC REDUCTION PROPOSAL. US DEPREP SAID HE DID NOT, OWING TO NATURE OF OBLIGATIONS OTHER WESTERN PARTICIPANTS WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT AND TO FACT THAT PRESENT RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES WOULD BE BASE FOR REDUCTIONS. SMIRNOVSKY SAID SOVIETS DID NOT EXPECT EVERYONE TO
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ACTUALLY CARRY OUT REDUCTIONS AT THE SAME TIME.

WESTERN EUROPEAN REDUCTIONS COULD TAKE PLACE AT A LATER STAGE OF IMPLEMENTATION. WHAT WAS IMPORTANT WAS THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD COMMIT THEMSELVES AT THE OUTSET TO REDUCE BY A SPECIAL AMOUNT AT A SPECIFIED TIME. US DEPREP SAID THAT POSTPONING IMPLEMENTATION OF REDUCTIONS WOULD NOT CHANGE FUNDAMENTAL WESTERN OBJECTIONS TO REDUCTION BY ALL FROM OUTSET.

3. US DEPREP AGAIN EXPLAINED THAT ALLIES DID NOT EXPECT WRITTEN SOVIET AGREEMENT TO THEIR CONCEPT OF PHASING, BUT A TENTATIVE UNDERSTANDING WHICH WOULD ENABLE PARTICIPANTS TO PROCEED TO DISCUSSION OF THE CONTENT OF REDUCTIONS. SMIRNOVSKY SAID HE UNDERSTOOD WESTERN POSITION ON THIS MATTER BETTER THAN PREVIOUSLY, BUT HE DOUBTED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD COME THAT FAR. WHY SHOULDN'T PARTICIPANTS GO ON NOW TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF THE CONTENT OF REDUCTIONS? US DEPREP SAID THAT HE THOUGHT PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE A MORE PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSION OF THE HIGHLY COMPLEX TOPIC OF REDUCTIONS IF SOME PARTIAL QUESTION SUCH AS THE AGREED QUESTION OF WHOSE FORCES WOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY RESOLVED.

4. SMIRNOVSKY ASKED WHETHER THE FIXED PERIOD OF TIME FOR ALLIES' NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT AND THE FIXED PERIOD OF TIME FOR REVIEW COULD BE THE SAME IN DURATION ACCORDING TO ALLIED VIEWS. US DEPREP SAID THIS ISSUE REMAINED TO BE NEGOTIATED ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS OUTCOME COULD BE EXCLUDED. SMIRNOVSKY SAID THAT APPARENTLY ALLIES HAD IN MIND A REVIEW CLAUSE WHICH COULD LEAD TO CANCELLATION OF THE AGREEMENT. BUT THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT WANT TO HAVE A FIRST STAGE AGREEMENT COLLAPSE IN THIS WAY. THIS REMEDY WAS TOO DRASTIC.

5. SMIRNOVSKY SAID THE COMMON CEILING WAS A BAD CONCEPT AND THE ALLIES SHOULD DROP IT. US DEPREP SAID ALLIES BELIEVED THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO CONVINCE EAST OF THE ADVANTAGES OF THE COMMON CEILING ONCE

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THE FIRST ISSUE OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET HAD BEEN RESOLVED AND DISCUSSION MOVED TO THE DETAILS OF THE QUESTION OF REDUCTIONS. SMIRNOVSKY SAID HE HAD NOTICED THAT A NUMBER OF ALLIES WERE NOW OPPOSING NATIONAL CEILINGS. THIS WAS A BAD THING; WHY WERE THEY DOING THIS? US DEPREP SAID ALL WESTERN ALLIES WISHED TO HAVE GLOBAL CEILING AND OBLIGATIONS OF OTHER WESTERN DIRECT

PARTICIPANTS WOULD BE LIMITED TO MAINTAINING THAT GLOBAL CEILING ONCE INITIAL REDUCTIONS TOOK PLACE. IF ONE ALLY REDUCED UNDER THAT CEILING, OTHER ALLIES WOULD HAVE RIGHT TO FILL IN. SMIRNOVSKY SAID THIS WAS A BAD CONCEPT. HOW WOULD SOVIETS KNOW WHO HAD REDUCED IN THE FIRST PLACE? US DEPREP SAID THERE WERE PROBABLY PRACTICAL WAYS OF RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM.

6. SMIRNOVSKY SAID THAT, IN DISCUSSION OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET, SOVIETS HAD NOT FORGOTTEN AIR AND NUCLEAR FORCES. US DEPREP SAID NONE OF ALLIES HAD ASSUMED THAT SOVIETS HAD FORGOTTEN. SMIRNOVSKY SAID SOVIETS WOULD NOT ACCEPT REDUCTIONS OTHER THAN ON AN EQUAL BASIS. US DEPREP SAID THIS WAS AN ISSUE WHICH BELGONED TO THE DISCUSSION OF REDUCTIONS AND SHOULD BE LEFT UNTIL THAT TIME. SMIROVSKY AGAIN SAID ALLIED TOTALS FOR GROUND FORCES ON BOTH SIDES WERE INCORRECT AND DID NOT INCLUDE FRENCH. US DEPREP SAID FRENCH WERE INCLUDED, BUT THAT THIS WAS KIND OF ISSUE WHICH COULD NOT BE RESOLVED UNTIL DATA WERE COMPARED. RESOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOCIAL RECEPTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MBFRV00041
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740144-1037
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740665/aaaacebe.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <08 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET DELOFF JUNE 5, 1974
TAGS: PARM, UR, NATO, MBFR, (SMIRNOVSKY)
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005